

BARNEY FRANK  
4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

2252 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2104  
(202) 225-5931

29 CRAFTS STREET  
SUITE 375  
NEWTON, MA 02458  
(617) 332-3920

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC**

558 PLEASANT STREET  
ROOM 309  
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740  
(508) 999-6462  
THE JONES BUILDING  
29 BROADWAY  
SUITE 310  
TAUNTON, MA 02780  
(508) 822-4796

September 2, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We in Congress and the Executive Branch face momentous decisions regarding the need to restructure our intelligence community. We welcome the insistence that the 9/11 Commission has put on the importance of a thorough reform, and of the need to move expeditiously. We look forward to working with the administration and our Congressional colleagues to accomplish this in the best way possible. But as we work on this important task of a complete restructuring of our intelligence, we should not neglect other steps that can both enhance our self-defense and improve our ability to influence global events in ways that advance our legitimate interests.

One such step – indeed it is long overdue – is for you to dismiss Lt. Gen. William Boykin as the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence. We were appalled when we learned of the comments General Boykin had made invoking religion in an inflammatory and inappropriate way while in uniform. Many of us hoped at the time that your administration would act promptly to remove him, but you instead decided to give him the benefit of a thorough investigation. Now that investigation has demonstrated what has been clear to many of us all along – namely that General Boykin should not serve as a high intelligence officer of the U.S. government. We find his judgment to be severely lacking on many counts. The offense he has given to hundreds of millions of Muslims in the world clearly can only exacerbate many of the problems we face. And while General Boykin is obviously entitled as a citizen to whatever religious views he wishes to hold, we believe that his remarks demonstrate a serious lack of the objectivity that should be accompanying military intelligence.

We therefore urge you to dismiss General Boykin from his post as Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence immediately. With the emphasis that has now rightly focused on the importance of intelligence in our self-defense, continuation of General Boykin in this extremely important position will be highly counter-productive.

Sincerely,

  
Congressman Barney Frank

  
Congressman James McDermott

  
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee

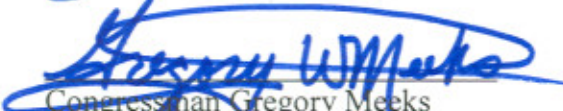
  
Congresswoman Maxine Waters

  
Congressman Martin Meehan


  
Congressman Jose Serrano

  
Congressman John Conyers

  
Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones

  
Congressman Gregory Meeks

  
Congresswoman Barbara Lee

  
Congressman Fortney Pete Stark